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Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 074712
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 074712

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, ZA, RH, US

SUBJECT: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO PRESIDENT
CARTER, 3/8/78

FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE DELIVERED BY FM MWALE IN
MEETING WITH SECRETARY ON MARCH 18 (STATE 072802):

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT:

I WISH TO INFORM YOU THAT ON MONDAY, MARCH 6, 1978, THE
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REBEL RHODESIAN FORCES LAUNCHED A WANTON AND AN UNPROVOKED
ACT OFAGGRESSION AGAINST ZAMBIA. THE AIR AND GROUND
ATTACK TOOK PLACE IN THE LUANGWA DISTRICT(FORMERLY
FEIRA) OF OUR TERRITORY WHICH BORDERS WITH THE REBEL
BRITISH COLONY. THE REBEL FORCES HAD BEEN AMASSED ON THE
RHODESIAN SIDE OF THE ZAMBEZI WITH THE INTENTION OF
CROSSING BUT THIS ATTEMPT TO INVADE ZAMBIA MET WITH STIFF

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RESISTANCE BY THE ZAMBIA SECURITY FORCES. THE HELI-
BORNE OPERATION TO DROP PARATROOPERS WAS REPELLED BY THE
ZAMBIA SECURITY FORCES.

THE OBJECT OF THIS AERIAL BOMBING BY THE REBEL AIRFORCE
WAS TO GIVE AIR-COVER TO THEIR TROOPS WHO WERE STRUGGLING
TO CROSS INTO OUR TERRITORY. ZAMBIA SECURITY FORCES

RETALIATED AND IN THE PROCESS BROUGHT DOWN SIX
RHODESIAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT. UP TO LATE LAST NIGHT,
7TH MARCH, FIGHTING STILL CONTINUED ON THE BORDER. THE
ZAMBIAN FORCES WHO ARE BEING REINFORCED ARE CONTAINING
THE SITUATION AND WILL DEFEND OUR COUNTRY WITH RESOLUTE
DETERMINATION.

WE HAVE, OF COURSE, FOR SOMETIME KNOWN OF THE RHODESIAN
PLANS FOR A MASSIVE ATTACK AND AN INVASION OF THE ZAMBIAN
TERRITORY. AS YOU KNOW LAST YEAR IN SEPTEMBER,
RHODESIANS USED NAPALM BOMBS TO ATTACK THE SAME AREA.
ZAMBIAN LIFE WAS LOST. NOW, THE ZAMBIAN FORCES CAN NO
LONGER BE RESTRAINED FROM TAKING DEFENSIVE MEASURES
INCLUDING ENTERING THE RHODESIAN TERRITORY TO PURSUE THE
ENEMY IF NECESSARY. WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DEFEND
OURSELVES AND WE WILL DO SO WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF ANYONE
READY TO COME TO OUR AID IN THIS HOUR OF NEED. WE
CANNOT BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IF THE WAR SHOULD BE WIDENED.
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WE KNOW THAT SMITH HAS NOW BEEN JOINED BY THE THREE
BLACK LEADERS, WHO SIGNED THE SO-CALLED INTERNAL SETTLE-
MENT, IN COMMITTING ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST NEIGH-
BOURING TERRITORIES. WE KNOW THAT THE REBEL REGIME OF
IAN SMITH IS ANGERED BY OUR TOTAL REJECTION OF THE
SO-CALLED AGREEMENT WHICH LEAVES THE WHITE POWER FULLY
ENTRENCHED AND IN CONTROL OF THE DESTINY OF RHODESIA.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT WE WILL NOT WAVER FROM OUR
STAND. WE REMAIN COMMITTED TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN
PROPOSALS WHICH WE WERE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT EVEN AGAINST
OUR BETTER JUDGMENT. WE URGE YOU, MR. PRESIDENT, TO
RE-AFFIRM AMERICA'S COMMITMENT TO THE ANGLO-AMERICAN
PROPOSALS AND TO REJECT THE SO-CALLED SETTLEMENT AS A
RECIPE FOR CIVIL WAR. IT IS VITAL FOR THE SECURITY
COUNCIL TO BACK IN FULL THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS
AND TO WORK OUT QUICKLY, MEASURES FOR THEIR IMPLEMENTATION.

WITH WARMEST REGARDS. YOURS SINCERELY, KENNETH D.
KAUNDA, PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA. END TEXT.

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Message Attributes

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Subject: MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA TO PRESIDENT CARTER, 3/8/78 FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MESSAGE DELIVERED BY FM MWALE
TAGS: PDIP, PBOR, MOPS, ZA, RH, US, (CARTER, JIMMY), (KAUNDA, KENNETH DAVID)
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